

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04815 151019Z

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IGA-01 CU-02 USIA-06 /047 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4768

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4815

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LA, US

SUBJECT: AID-SPONSORED LAO PARTICIPANTS IN TRAINING IN THAILAND

1. AS A GESTURE OF COURTESY, I CALLED ON MINISTER OF EDUCATION LEUAM INSISIENGMAI THIS MORNING TO EXPLAIN OUR DECISION ON CUTTING OFF USAID ASSISTANCE TO LAO TRAINEES AS OF AUGUST 31. HE EVIDENTLY KNEW OF THE MATTER AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT THEY WERE GIVEN TIME TO DECIDE ON WHAT COULD BE DONE. I MENTIONED THAT AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD ME AUSTRALIA MIGHT BE PREPARED TO HELP 10 TO 12 STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR YEAR. I WONDERED WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT NOT BE ALSO WILLING TO HELP OUT. LEUAM ANSWERED THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS GOING OVER ALL THE FILES AND THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CABINET. HE SAID THAT WHILE RTG HAD PROMISED IN CULTURAL AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS, IN FACT NO PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE IN BUDGET. HE SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE PGNU MIGHT TRY TO HELP SOME OF THE STUDENTS, BUT FRANKLY ADMITTED PGNU COULD NOT HELP ALL. I SAID THAT WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO COOPERATE IN ANYWAY WE COULD TO RESOLVE THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM. AS A RESULT, WE AGREED THAT THE CULTURAL COUNSELOR AT THE LAO EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, KAO OUTSAMA, AND MR. HERBERT ROBERTS, CHIEF OF THE TRAINING DIVISION, USOM/THAILAND, MIGHT USEFULLY MEET TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE QUESTION.

2. BANGKOK FOR MR. ROBERTS: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
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CALLING OUTSAMA. LAO NOT FAMOUS FOR TAKING INITIATIVE

AND SIX WEEKS REMAINING TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE WAYS OF
HELPING THE STUDENTS IS PRETTY SHORT TIME.
CHAPMAN

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